

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL TIJUANA

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS TIJUANA 0365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI MX

SUBJ: BORDER INCIDENTS REAL AND OTHERWISE

1. THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN THIS BORDER AREA DURING THE LAST WEEK BEAR REPORTING BECAUSE OF ERRONEOUS SLANT WHICH TIJUANA PRESS PUT ON THEM TO MAKE AMERICANS AND US APPEAR GUILTY OF BRUTAL BEHAVIOR TOWARDS MEXICANS. FIRST INCIDENT INVOLVED SAN DIEGO POLICE AND MARGINALLY BORDER PATROL; THE SECOND MAY NOT HAVE INVOLVED AMERICANS AT ALL; AND THE THIRD INVOLVES A PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN AND BY IMPLICATION SAN DIEGO OFFICIALS.

2. EVENING JULY 5 FOUR MEN, PRESUMABLY MEXICAN, ATTEMPTED HOLD UP FIVE MEMBERS SAN DIEGO POLICE BORDER TASK FORCE JUST INSIDE US SIDE OF BORDER CLOSE TO SAN YSIDRO. OUTCOME WAS TWO BANDITS WOUNDED, NONE SERIOUSLY. ONE IS IN HOSPITAL IN CALIFORNIA AND PROBABLY WILL BE CHARGED; THE OTHER IS IN A TIJUANA HOSPITAL WITH SHOTGUN WOUNDS. THE OTHER TWO BANDITS ESCAPED ACROSS BORDER. BORDER PATROL INVOLVED ONLY WHEN, AT REQUEST SDPD, BORDER PATROL AGENTS TRIED TO POSITION THEMSELVES BETWEEN BANDITS AND BORDER. BORDER PATROL WITH-DREW HOWEVER WHEN FIRED UPON FROM MEXICAN SIDE OF LINE. ONE PATROL-MAN SLIGHTLY HURT IN LEAVING AREA.

TIJUANA'S EL MEXICANO, DESCRIBING THIS INCIDENT, REPORTED NONE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOVE BUT UNDER HEADLINE ENTITLED "EXCESSIVE CRUELTY OF FRONTIER PATROLMEN," CHARGED THAT ELEMENTS OF BORDER PATROL "WITH GREAT SADISM" SHOT A SMUGGLER NINE TIMES IN THE LEGS.

3. THE OTHER INCIDENT ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING BORDER PATROL REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE ON JULY 6 AND WAS REPORTED UNDER SAME HEADLINE. EL MEXICANO ALLEGED THAT A BORDER PATROLMAN ATTACKED A 12 YEAR OLD MEXICAN

SWIMER IN WATER HOLE ON US SIDE OF BORDER, BROKE HIS ARM AND BEAT HIM ABOUT THE BODY. THE BORDER PATROL HAS NO REPORT OF THIS INCIDENT, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT TOOK PLACE, AT LEAST WITH INVOLVEMENT OF US OFFICERS.

4. IN FINAL INCIDENT ON JULY 4 ONE DONALD CULP WITH AN ICE PICK ATTACKED A CANADIAN TOURIST IN TIJUANA. THE ONLY TIJUANA PAPER IN WHICH WE SAW A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, ABC OF TIJUANA, LINKED THE ATTACK TO A SIMILAR ONE IN TIJUANA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WHICH RESULTED IN A CANADIAN WOMAN BEING PARALYSED. THE ARTICLE SUGGESTED, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE MOUTH OF THE TIJUANA POLICE CHIEF, THAT THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE DISCARDED THAT ECONOMIC GROUPS FROM SAN DIEGO HAD HIRED CULP IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE TOURISM ALONG THE FRONTIER. WE SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED TO THE POLICE CHIEF, WHO TOLD US THAT THERE WAS A SIMILARITY TO THE PREVIOUS ATTACK ON THE CANADIAN WOMAN, BUT ASCRIBED TO PRESS IRRESPONSIBILITY THE SUGGESTION THAT CULP HAD BEEN HIRED TO UNDERTAKE HIS TIJUANA ACTIVITIES. CULP HIMSELF APPARENTLY HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS. WE WILL REPORT HIS ARREST ROUTINELY IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

5. COMMENT: WE SEE NO PARTICULAR ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THESE ARTICLES BUT SIMPLY REFLECTION OF THE LEVEL OF BAJA JOURNALISM. THE THEME OF THE CULP CASE HOWEVER IS A VARIATION OF CHARGES WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE, AT A COMMISSION OF THE CALIFORNIA'S MEETING FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CERTAIN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS HAD CONSPIRED TO GIVE BAJA A BAD PRESS AND THUS DISCOURAGE TOURISM HERE.
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